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The Cryptogams of the River Elbe. — An interesting subject is treated by Dr. B. Schorler,¹ in his paper on the cryptogams of the river Elbe, and their effect on the impurities which the river receives from the city of Dresden. The subject is certainly not a threadbare one, and it is considered with German thoroughness; it seems probable that in many cases the relatively low algæ and the non-chlorophyllaceous Schizophytes may have a decided influence on the self-purifying of contaminated waters.

F. S. C.

Rockery and Aquarium Plants. — Attractively gotten-up handbooks for the amateur gardener, who wishes to diversify his collection, are Wocke's *Alpen-Pflanzen*² and Mönkemeyer's *Sumpf- und Wasserpflanzen*.³ Both are pleasantly written and well illustrated. If a comparison were to be made between them, the first-named would be characterized as the better done.

T.

Nomenclature in Horticulture. — Prof. F. A. Waugh, in a little brochure recently issued,⁴ calls attention to the need of general adoption of a consistent system of nomenclature for plants cultivated by the gardener and orchardist. His meaning is made clear by the citation in full of several examples of correct nomenclature and synonymic citation, taken from recent publications on fruits and garden vegetables.

T.

Botanical Notes. — "The Red Desert of Wyoming and its Forage Resources" is the title of a bulletin by Prof. Aven Nelson, recently published by the Division of Agrostology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The paper is illustrated by several reproductions of photographs showing the character of the desert growth, and by a number of figures of grasses and other plants.

Under the title "Studies in the Herbarium and the Field, No. 2," Miss Alice Eastwood, the active curator of the herbarium of the Cal-

¹ Schorler, A. Gutachten über die Vegetation der Elbe und ihre Bedeutung für die Selbstreinigung derselben. Dresden, 1897.

² Wocke, Erich. *Die Alpen-Pflanzen in der Garten-Kultur der Tiefländer*. Ein Leitfaden für Gärtner und Gartenfreunde. Berlin, Gustav Schmidt, 1898. 8vo, xii + 257 pp.

³ Mönkemeyer, Willh. *Die Sumpf- und Wasserpflanzen*. Ihre Beschreibung, Kultur und Verwendung. Berlin, Gustav Schmidt, 1897. 8vo, iv + 189 pp., ff. 126.

⁴ Waugh, F. A. *Notes on Horticultural Nomenclature*. New York, American Gardening, 1898. 26 pp.

ifornia Academy of Sciences, publishes a series of articles on The plants of San Nicolas Island ; New species of *Cnicus* from southern Colorado and Utah ; The Colorado alpine species of *Synthyris* ; The manzanitas of Mt. Tamalpais ; Two species of *Eriodictyon*, heretofore included under *E. tomentosum* ; and New species of Pacific Coast plants. Four excellent detail plates add to the value of the paper, which is brought out as No. 3 of the current botanical volume of the *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences*.

Mrs. Alice Carter Cooke, who, with her husband, has passed a considerable time in the Canary Islands, publishes popular articles on their flora in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* for July and the *Popular Science Monthly* for October. The last-mentioned article is attractively illustrated.

An address given by Professor Miall before the Royal Institution last February, on "A Yorkshire Moor," is published in *Nature*, Nos. 1503-4. It contains an ecological account of the principal moor-plants, and is illustrated by a number of habit and histological figures, which aid in rendering intelligible the modifications from normal structure by which these plants are adapted to their peculiar mode of life.

The genus *Nigella* is revised by Terracciano in a paper¹ reprinted from the *Bollettino del R. Orto Botanico di Palermo*, Vol. i, Nos. 3 and 4, and Vol. ii, No. 1.

An account of the Capparidaceous genus *Boscia*, to which is appended an analytical key to the species, based on leaf anatomy, is concluded in the *Bulletin de l'Herbier Boissier* of September 14. The paper is to be illustrated by fourteen plates, the publication of which, however, has been deferred until the next number of the *Bulletin*.

The extra-nuptial nectaries of Bombaceæ form the subject of an elaborate memoir by Dr. Achille Terracciano in the second fascicle of the current volume of *Contribuzioni alla biologia vegetale*, a publication of the Botanic Institute of Palermo. Several plates contain figures showing the distribution and structure of the organs.

Gillenia trifoliata, the Indian physic, is written of and figured in the *American Journal of Pharmacy* for October, in which is also contained the first of a series of tables for the qualitative examination of powdered vegetable drugs, by Henry Kraemer.

¹ Terracciano, Achille. *Revisione monografica delle specie del genere Nigella*. Palermo, 1897-8. 8vo, 62 pp.

Rosa stellata, a New Mexican relative of the Lower Californian *R. minutifolia*, which was described by Professor Wootton in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* of March last, is made the subject of a critical note by the eminent rhodologist Crépin, in the *Bulletin de l'Herbier Boissier* for September.

Rubber forms the subject of Pt. 8 of Vol. iii of the *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information* of the Trinidad Botanic Gardens.

A paper by Blanc and Decrock, on the geographical distribution of the Primulaceæ, is brought to conclusion in the September number of the *Bulletin de l'Herbier Boissier*.

In Nos. 49-51 of *Die Gartenwelt*, Alwin Berger, curator of the acclimatization garden at La Mortola, on the Riviera, briefly describes the more common and attractive of the cultivated Agaves, illustrating his paper by half-tone reproductions of excellent photographs of a considerable number of species, which show these as they are grown in the open air at La Mortola.

The variability of the Norway spruce, *Picea excelsa*, is discussed at some length in a well-illustrated paper by C. Schröter, published in the August number of the *Vierteljahrsschrift der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Zürich*.

D. T. Johnson publishes a paper on the leaf and sporocarp of *Pilularia* in the *Botanical Gazette* for July, and a paper on the development of the leaf and sporocarp in *Marsilia quadrifolia*, in the *Annals of Botany* for June.

Laboratory Bulletin, No. 9, of Oberlin College, issued in June, is entirely devoted to botanical subjects: The effects of bloom on the transpiration of leaves, by Roberta Reynolds; A new species of Pyrenomycete parasitic on an alga; List of Ohio plants not recorded in the latest state catalogue; and Unusual forms of maple seedlings, — the last three by the late Professor Herbert L. Jones.

The *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* for 1897 contains the following botanical articles: Golden, Pure yeast in bread; Stone, The susceptibility of different starches to digestive ferments; Bryan, Evolution of free nitrogen in bacterial fermentations; Ferris, Micro-organisms in flour; Biting, The number of micro-organisms in air, water, and milk, as determined by their growth upon different media; Thomas, The effect of formalin on germinating seeds; Olive, A list of the Mycetozoa, collected near Crawfordsville; Snyder, The germ of pear blight; Arthur, Water power for botanical apparatus; Coul-

ter, Contributions to the flora of Indiana, No. 5, and Experiments in germination of composites ; Cunningham, The Ericaceæ of Indiana, and Indiana's Gentianaceæ ; Wright, Inarching of trees, and Notes on the cypress swamps of Knox County.

As President of the Michigan Academy of Science, Prof. V. M. Spalding delivered, some months since, an address on *A Natural History Survey of Michigan*, which has been issued in pamphlet form. His plea for the organization of such a survey is timely, and the results being reached in Wisconsin should make success reasonably certain if it were organized in the proper manner.

PETROGRAPHY AND MINERALOGY.

A New Edition of Dana's Mineralogy.¹—The latest edition of Dana's *Text-Book of Mineralogy* is practically a new book. It is unquestionably the best text-book of modern mineralogy that has appeared. In its general make-up it resembles very closely the earlier editions of the book bearing the same title, but in its contents it varies widely from these. The entire book has been rewritten, and all of its parts have been brought quite up to date.

"In the chapter on crystallography, the different types of crystal forms are described under the now accepted thirty-two groups, classed according to their symmetry. The names given to these groups are based, so far as possible, upon the characteristic form of each, and are intended also to suggest the terms formerly applied in accordance with the principles of hemihedrism. The order adopted is that which alone seems suited to the demands of the elementary student, the special and mathematically simple groups of the isometric system being described first" (from author's preface). The discussion of crystallographic symmetry is remarkably simple. It should be clear to any student.

The section devoted to the explanation of the general principles of optics, and of the optical characters of minerals, is particularly welcome in an English text-book. All of the most important optical principles are expounded, the optical characteristics of the different crystal systems explained, and the methods used in determining their

¹ Dana, E. S. *A Text-Book of Mineralogy, with an extended Treatise on Crystallography and Physical Mineralogy.* New edition, entirely rewritten and enlarged. New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1898.